



# Technical Assurance: What is it? Why is it Important?

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# Pertinent Terminology and Acronyms

- **Technical Assistance = TA**
  - (aka Conservation Technical Assistance = CTA)
- **Technical and Administrative Assistance = T & A**
- **Technical Approval Authority = TAA**
  - (aka Job Approval Authority = JAA)
- **Technical Quality Assurance = TQA**
  - (aka Technical Assurance)



# Technical Quality Assurance – What is it?

- **Wikipedia** – No definition for **Technical Quality Assurance**
- **Quality Assurance:** Administrative and procedural measures in a quality management system to ensure fulfillment of requirements and goals for a product, service or activity.
- **Quality Assurance principles:**
  - "Fit for the purpose", and
  - "Right the first time"

Just add **"Technical"**



# Technical Quality Assurance – Why is it Important?

- More grant funding and increased **accountability**
  - Clean Water Legacy Act – June 2006
  - Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) report – January 2007
  - Office of Grants Management (OGM) established Sep. 2007
- **Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment (2008)**
  - FY 15 total all funds approx. \$300M
  - **FY 15 Clean Water Funds** approx. \$100M (33%)



# BWSR Grants Administration Manual

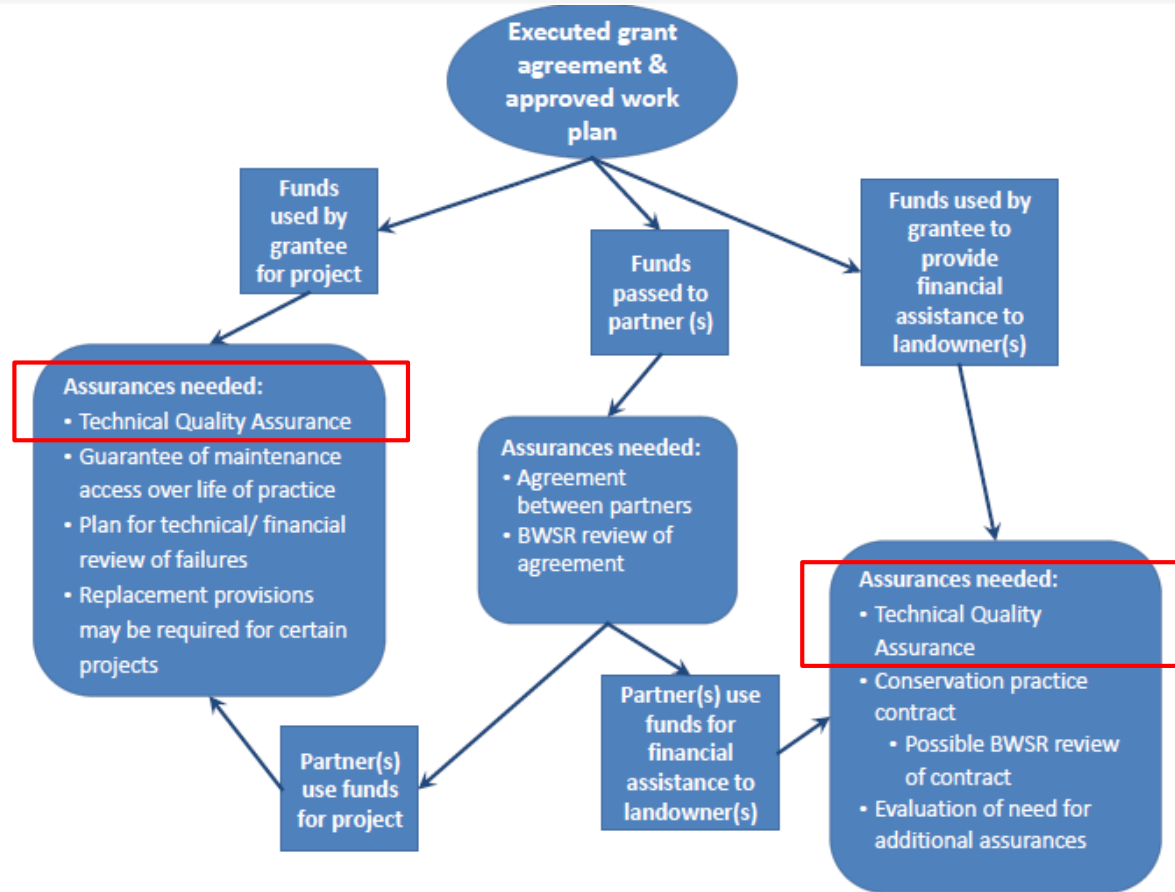
## Technical Quality Assurance Section

<http://bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/>

- **Goal:** Ensure long-term public benefit of practices and projects.
- **Grant recipient responsibilities:**
  - Technical assistance provider credentials
  - Practice standards
  - Practice certification
  - Operation and maintenance plan
  - Periodic inspection



# BWSR Grants Admin Manual Project Assurances Diagram





# Sources of Technical Assistance for Technical Quality Assurance

- SWCD or NRCS staff with TAA
- SWCD TSA engineering staff
- USDA-certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Other qualified private consultants and vendors
- County engineers



# SWCD Technical Assistance – Training and Credentialing

- BWSR coordinated SWCD TAA inventory and survey (2012)
- SWCD Technical Assistance and Capacity Summit (June 11, 2014)
- BWSR Exec. Director meetings with SWCD lead staff (summer 2014)
- BWSR coordinating with MASWCD and NRCS to follow up
- SWCD / LCD technical training and certification in other states
  - Wisconsin:
  - Ohio:
  - Missouri:





# Presenter Transition

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